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Energy Department to Fund Eight Native American Tribes to Develop Renewable Energy

GOLDEN, COLO. – Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced today that the Department of Energy (DOE) is making $1.3 million available to eight Native American tribes to advance the development of renewable energy technologies on tribal lands.

"The Department of Energy is committed to helping Native American tribes develop clean, affordable and reliable energy options," Secretary Spencer Abraham said. "These projects encourage tribal self-sufficiency, help create jobs, improve our environmental quality and make our nation more secure."

Among those receiving awards is the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, home to bands of the Shoshone and Paiute Tribes. The reservation straddles the Nevada-Idaho border and is one of the most remote and thinly populated areas of the lower 48 states. At 453 square miles, the reservation is home to 1,100 people. The reservation's power supply is nearing capacity limit and has become chronically susceptible to outages. Multi-day system outages are not uncommon. These factors impact the Tribes' plans to promote economic development on the reservation, where the unemployment rate is around 40 percent.

Ranging from the Owyhee River Valley to high desert country and mountains, the land on the reservation is quite diverse. Its high desert climate makes it a favorable location for solar radiation (90 percent plus days of sunshine in the summer, 70 percent plus days of sunshine in the winter). Several areas on the reservation also have high average annual wind speeds. The Tribe will explore using distributed renewable energy technologies to bring reliable electric power to more of the reservation.

Other projects to receive DOE funding include:

- **Tulalip Tribes of Washington (Snohomish County, Wash.) –** A feasibility study to develop one or more biogas generation facilities to convert manure and other biomass resources into electricity. The biogas generation facility will help supply heat to tribal nursery and greenhouse operations and improve water quality in Snohomish Watershed streams and rivers.

- **Taos Pueblo (Taos County, N.M.) –** A site-wide examination of the reservation to determine the best location for development of renewable energy technologies that respect the cultural beliefs of the tribe.

- **Viejas Tribal Government (Alpine, Calif.) -** A feasibility study on the development of renewable energy technologies to ensure long-term electric price stability and increase investment opportunities. The tribe will search for available renewable energy options to use as the primary source for power generation.

- **Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation (Owyhee, Nev. -** A feasibility study is to address the reliability and deliverability of the electric distribution system on the Duck Valley Reservation. Secondary objectives include a reduction in energy-related expenditures by tribal businesses and households, creating jobs and preserving the environment.

- **St. Croix Tribal Government (Northwestern Wisc.) -** The St. Croix Tribe's interest in sustainable economic development has led them to explore using locally available biofuel for power generation. A biofuel power project will leverage community assets and resources and provide a foundation for future sustainable development. It will also help to meet power demands and reduce dependence on imported non-renewable energy sources.

- **Cherokee Nation (Northeastern Okla.) -** A feasibility study to determine the future possibilities of a wind farm on the tribe's property in Kay County (north-central) Okla. This land consists of two tracts of fee and trust land totaling approximately 4,275 acres and is presently leased for grazing.

- **Bristol Bay Native Corporation - BBNC (Southeast Alaska) -** The goal of BBNC's feasibility study is to comprehensively assess the renewable energy potential for the Bristol Bay region of southwest Alaska. The region is comprised of 30 villages ranging from ten or fewer people to two large commercial centers, Dillingham and King Salmon/Naknek/South Naknek. With the exception of one hydroelectric project that provides power to three communities, diesel generators supply all electric power in the region. Given the economic and cultural importance of salmon and the salmon fisheries to the tribe, the economic, environmental, and social impact of a major diesel oil spill would be an enormous risk. Development of renewable energy resources would lower that risk.

- **The Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Government (Lower Brule, S.D.) –** A feasibility study to develop wind power generation combined with a hydroelectric system.

Renewable Energy Development on Tribal Lands

Native American Tribe and Location	Project Summary	Proposed Funding	Cost Share
The Tulalip Tribes - Marysville, Wash. (Snohomish County)	A Feasibility Study of Using Dairy Manure for Biomass Renewable Energy Generation	$378,794	$ 129,818
Taos Pueblo - Taos County, N.M.	Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	$195,768	$ 0
Viejas Tribal Government - Alpine, Calif. (east of San Diego)	A Feasibility Study for Renewable Energy-Based Tribal Utility	$130,578	$ 31,078
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes - Owyhee, Nev. (reservation straddles Idaho and Nevada border)	A Feasibility Study of Using Sustainable Distributed Generation Technologies to Improve the Electric System on the Duck Valley Reservation	$175,000	$ 25,000
St. Croix Tribal Government - Barron, Burnett and Polk Counties in Northwestern Wisc.	Biomass Feasibility Study	$251,225	$ 0
Cherokee Nation - Kay and Tulsa Counties in Northeastern Okla.	Wind Power Feasibility Study	$133,493	$ 3,468
Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) - Southeast Alaska	Bristol Bay Regional Cooperative Wind Power Feasibility Study	$103,492	$ 0
The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Tribal Government - Lower Brule, S.D.	Wind/Hydro Integration Feasibility Study	$150,000	$ 0

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